

Frequently Asked Questions

A. What exactly does this project entail?

We are completely remodeling the 16th Street YMCA, adding new additions, and mechanical systems. Once complete, the facility will be 127,290 square feet. We will be adding two new full-sized basketball/volleyball courts (with pickleball lines on the courts), a new space for a rebuilt adventure challenge, an early childhood development center, fieldturf space, and a second floor fitness center.

B. Why are you doing this?

Our two facilities are aging and need substantial repairs. They are both energy inefficient and we have a lot of duplication of services. By combining these two facilities into one building we will become more financially secure and provide better facilities to our community. This project will also allow us to offer more programs and newer programs to fit the needs of our community.

C. Why should I donate and support this project?

This will be one of the biggest and more influential projects ever completed in our community. A healthy and vibrant YMCA is an important tool in attracting and retaining young families, employees, and seniors. A new YMCA will lead to a healthier community, more opportunities for our youth, and a great social space for people of all ages, races, and backgrounds. Please join us in making this happen.

D. Why did you choose to keep the 16th St. facility?

The 16th St. facility was less expensive to remodel and add the space that we needed. To build a new swimming pool at 18th St. like we currently have, would cost an additional \$4-\$5 million. The 16th St. facility is more structurally sound and we have land to add and expand. Plus, we feel like there is a better market to sell the 18th St. facility.

E. What will happen to the 18th St. building?

Once the 16th St. facility is completed, we will sell the 18th St facility.

F. When will the project begin?

We are currently on schedule to begin construction in the Spring of 2022. Once an exact date is confirmed we will communicate this with all of our members.

G. How long will it take to complete the project?

We are anticipating that the construction will take 18-24 months to complete. This depends on a lot of variables, but we hope it's closer to 18 months.

H. Will we be able to continue using the 16th St. YMCA during construction?

No. Once construction begins we will vacate the 16th building and all members will use 18th St., except for the swimming pool. See next question. Vacating the building will allow the contractor to work faster, more efficiently, which will save us a lot of money on the project. We know it will be slightly inconvenient, but we have plans to help in the transition.

I. What amenities & features will we be gaining?

With this new construction, we will be gaining two new basketball/volleyball courts, 12 lap walking/running track, family center for adventure challenge, new aquatics center with a new swimming pool, therapy pool, sauna and steam room, elevator access, well lit parking lot, new early childhood development center, and a new fitness center (see additional sections for specific details on each area).

J. What amenities & features will we be losing?

With this construction, we will be losing the hot tub, boys/girls locker rooms, racquetball courts, tennis courts, and baseball batting cages.

K. Will the temporary move to 18th St. handle everything we currently use at 16th?

Yes, but things will be different. We will set up a main floor fitness area where the existing gymnastics area is located (they will be moving to another location in town). We will have an area for our regular 16th St. users that is private, quiet, and where you can continue to enjoy coffee time. Fitness classes will be held in various locations and we are working on that schedule. We need everyone to stick with us during this transition. Good things come to those who wait.

The swimming pool will be the last phase of the project. During our shutdown of 16th St., we will keep the pool open and members can access it through the North doors and park on the north side.

L. Will our membership rates increase?

We do not plan to increase membership rates.

Swimming Pool

M. What will happen with the swimming pool during construction?

The swimming pool will be the last project that is completed. We anticipate this would start in March of 2023. The existing pool will be completely removed and rebuilt. While the remainder of the project is being built, the pool will remain open during construction so members can enjoy its many benefits. Members and guests will access the pool through the North outside doors. We are not sure if locker rooms will be available during this time.

N. What are the details of the new aquatic center?

The current plan for the swimming pool is to keep the 8 lane pool but widen the pool to allow for more recreational swimming. The entire pool will be torn out and all new equipment, plumbing, and mechanical systems installed. There will be a new two person therapy pool, sauna, and steam room. There will not be a hot tub.

O. How long will it take to build a new pool?

We have given the contractor 6 months to build a new pool. This means we will be without a pool for that period of time. We will keep the pool open during the other phases of the construction as mentioned previously. We know this will be a big inconvenience, but we all know that we need a new pool.

P. Will the therapy pool be available to YMCA members?

Yes. The therapy pool is being built in partnership with Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital. They will have set hours when their clients and staff will use the pool. During those off hours, our members will be able to use the pool.

Q. Will the pool have a ramp?

Yes, the pool will have a permanent concrete zero entry ramp and stairs into the water.

Fitness/Wellness Center

R. What all is included in the new fitness center?

The new fitness center will include all of the areas we need to have our health and wellness areas in one space. This space will include two dedicated aerobics rooms, a dedicated cycling room, restrooms, free weights, weight machines, cardio equipment, stretching area, and a women's only fitness room. It will also feature an outdoor wellness courtyard and direct access to the running/walking track.

S. Will the fitness center be staffed?

Yes, the fitness center will be staffed. Our Wellness Director and Wellness Coordinator will have their offices in this area, plus we will have Wellness Attendants working in this area. These staff members will ensure that equipment is being used properly, being cleaned up, and assist members who have questions.

T. What are the hours of the fitness center?

We have not determined the exact hours of the fitness/wellness center, but it will be open during normal business hours and extended hours. Members will be able to use their membership card or phone app to access an outside entrance to the fitness center. Once these hours are determined we will communicate it with our members.

U. Why is there a women's only area?

Having women's only areas is a new trend in fitness centers. This space will give women a private area to workout while feeling secure. We are combining many fitness spaces into one fitness area and we want to make it comfortable for everyone.

Other Amenities

V. How big is the new walking track?

Currently, the new walking track is slated to be 12 laps per mile.

W. Will there be enough parking?

There will be 216 parking stalls. We will also have plenty of lighting & a drive-up & drop-off area.

X. How big will the field turf area be?

The turf field is currently slated to be 45 yards long by 35 yards wide. Due to current construction material prices, the field turf space is a contingency plan that might be moved to a later phase.